Gaza aid and Governance

13 - 26 August 2025

Context

- More than 80% of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been forcibly displaced since the onset of the war, leaving nearly 2 million people living in uncertainty. They are forced to rely on formal and informal networks to secure shelter, food, and medical attention amidst severe bombardment and targeting of civilians.
- Provision and distribution of aid in the Gaza Strip is chaotic and controversial: aid trucks are stalled at the border, gangs loot aid for profit, and eyewitness testimony confirms targeting of civilians at aid distribution points.
- To better understand these sentiments, the Institute for Social and Economic Progress commissioned and conducted a representative public opinion poll across the Gaza Strip from 13 - 26 August 2025.

Executive summary (1/3)

- This report is comprised of five sections which present a comprehensive picture of the views and perceptions of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip:
  - Section (1): feelings and collective hope
  - Section (2): living conditions and availability of basic needs
  - Section (3): expectations of ceasefire negotiations
  - Section (4): perceptions of postwar governance

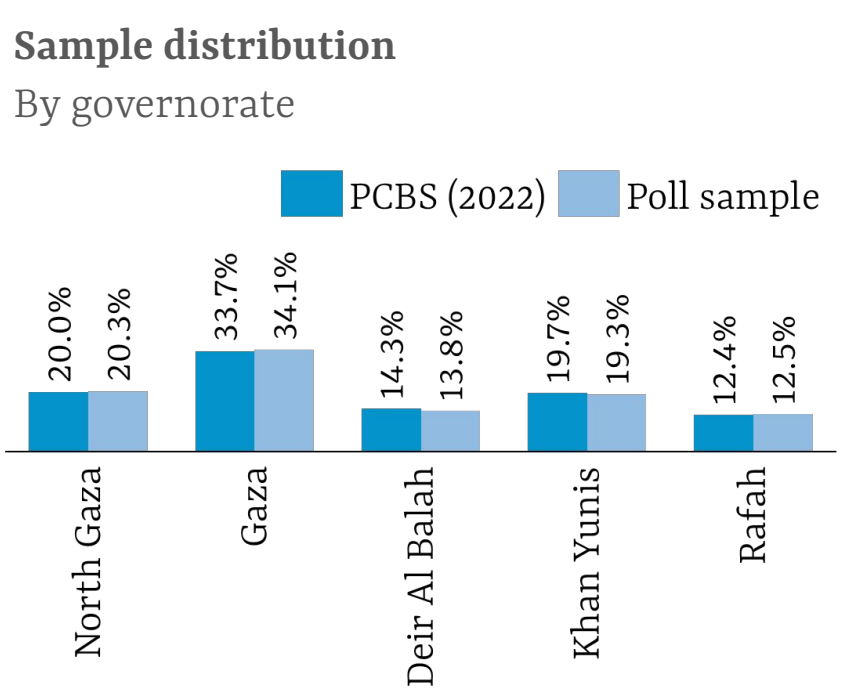
Executive summary – main findings (2/3)

- Anger, anxiety, and confusion dominate, while hope trails behind. Since January, the belief that the end of occupation is further away has nearly doubled.
- Only about 13% have received aid through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, with 93% dissatisfied with its distribution. Nearly 90% feel accessing aid through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation is dangerous.
- Respondents report UNRWA as the preferred provider of future aid, followed by the Red Crescent.

Executive summary – main findings (3/3)

- Nearly half doubt a permanent ceasefire is possible with four in five blaming Israel for faltering negotiations.
- A growing minority believe that Hamas should accept a temporary truce.
- Only 6% prefer Hamas to rule after the war, and 5.3% would vote for them in elections.
- Those with no political affiliation, and those who would not vote are a majority, with Marwan Barghouthi cited as the most trusted leader for postwar governance.
- Aid diversion are viewed as a major problem. Lack of access to food is blamed primarily on the occupation as well as local gangs.

Sample distribution - geographical location



Target population:

Gaza Strip

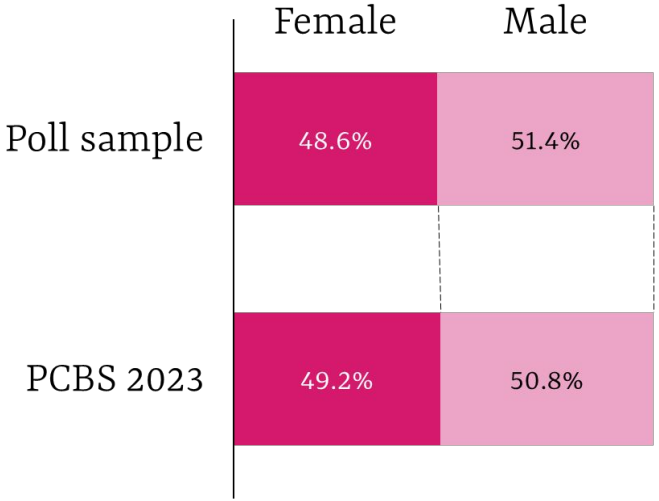
Aged 15 years or older

Sample size:

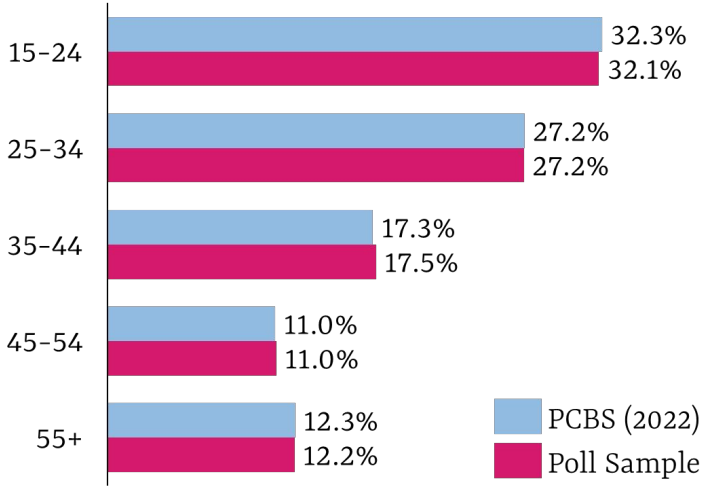
Gaza Strip - 400 respondents from 39 random locations

Sample distribution - gender and age

Sample distribution
By gender



Sample distribution
By age



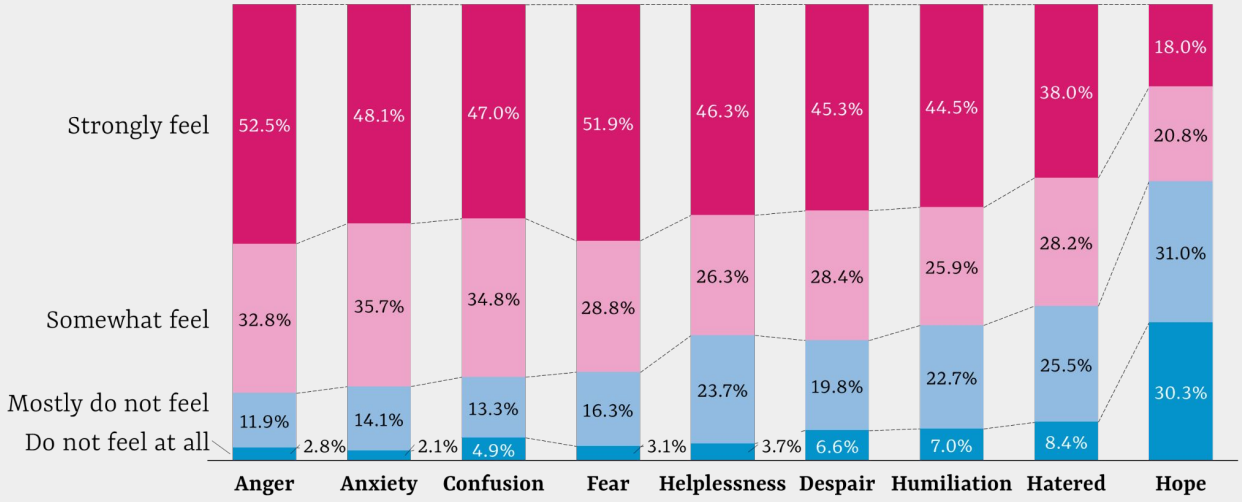
Why quota sampling in Gaza?

- ➔ Before the war, Gaza, like the West Bank, used to be divided into counting areas by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS).
- ➔ The current war, which displaced over 80% of Gaza's population, disrupted the "natural distribution" based on which counting areas were designed.
- ➔ Counting areas have become irrelevant because of the significant change in terms of population density and demographics.
- ➔ In this context, quota sampling has the highest chance of producing a frame which represents the population in question based on a number of factors that researchers choose. In our case, we used gender, age, and governorate of residence prior to the war.
- ➔ Once quotas have been decided, enumerators were dispersed to collect responses from 39 areas until each of the quotas is completed.

Emotions

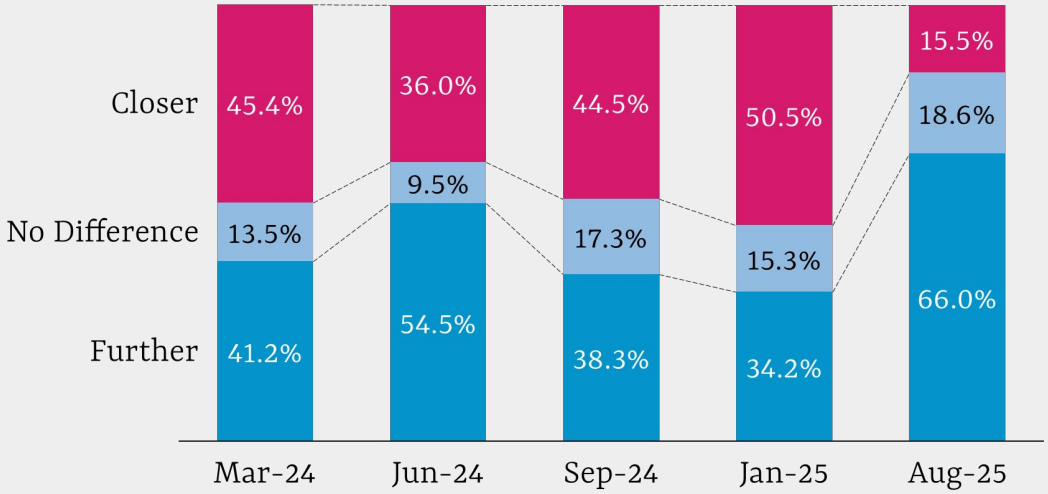
Anger, anxiety, confusion, and fear are the most prominent emotions in the Gaza Strip

In the current situation, to what extent do you feel the following emotions?



… with two in three (66%) believing that the end of occupation is further away, a 50% increase since January

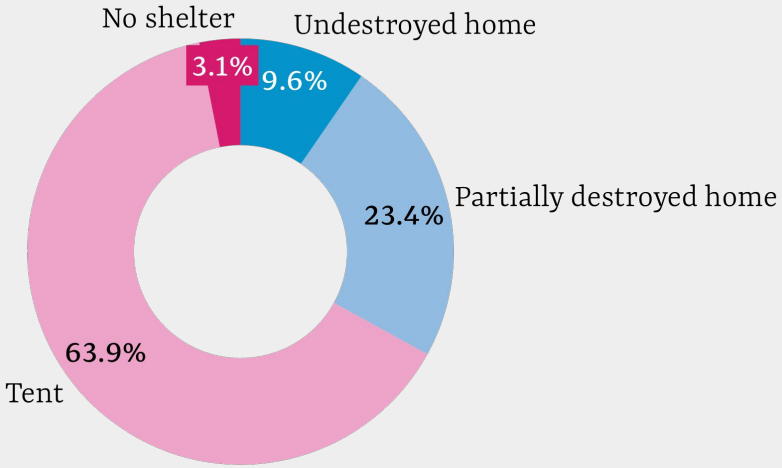
Based on recent developments, do you think the end of occupation is closer or further away?



Living conditions and basic needs

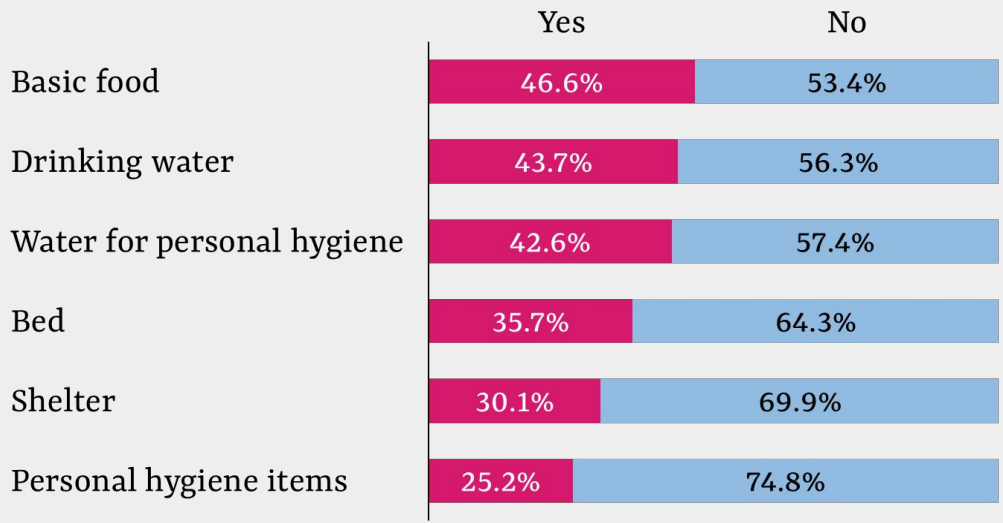
Two in three (63.9%) Gazans are living in tents, the majority of which are from North Gaza and Gaza city

What does your current home look like?



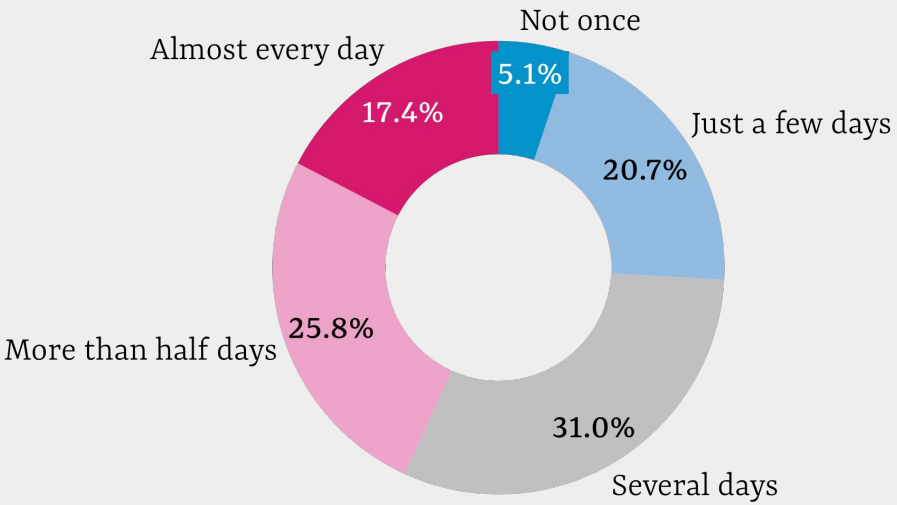
More than half (53.4%) of respondents are unable to meet their basic food needs, and only one in three (30%) have access to shelter

Are you able to meet your basic needs?



… with three of four respondents reporting that they or their family have had to skip meals several times over the past two weeks

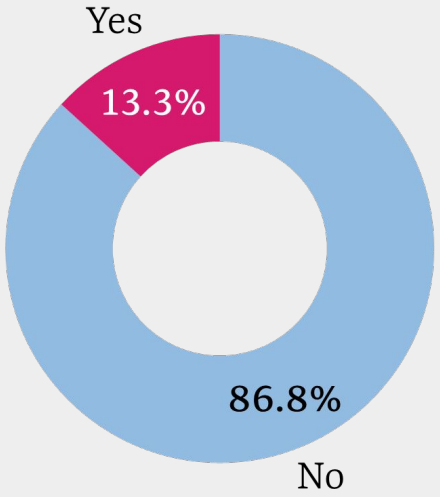
Over the past two weeks, how many times have you or someone in your family had to skip meals due to lack of food?



Aid distribution

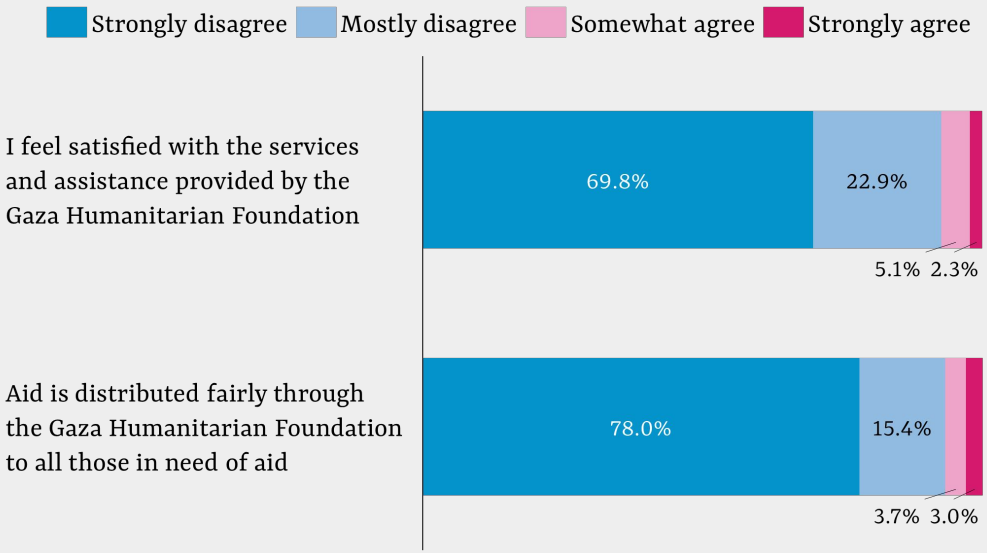
Only one in eight (13.3%) respondents have received aid through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation

Have you received any assistance through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation since it began its work?



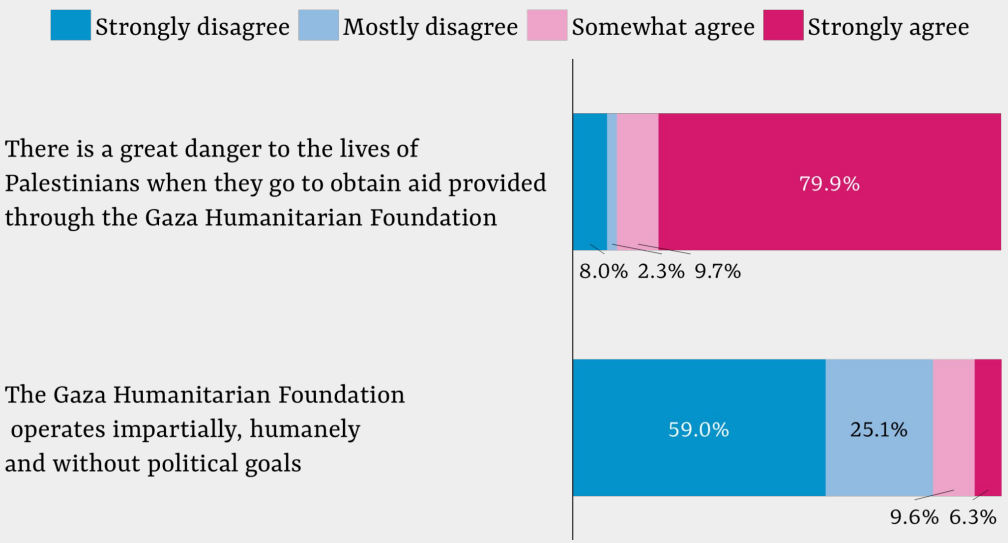
A large majority (92.7%) feel dissatisfied with the foundation's work and do not feel it distributes aid fairly (93.4%)

To what extent do you agree or disagree on the following statements regarding the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation?



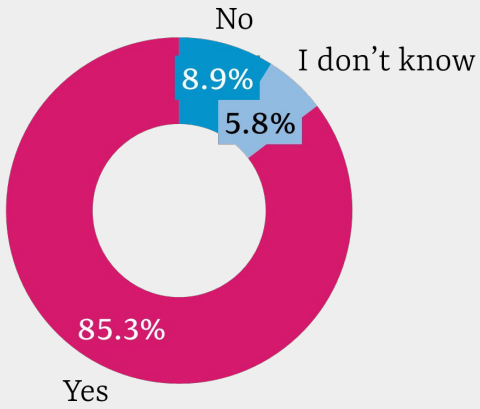
...the absolute majority (89.6%) also believes that getting aid through the foundation is a great danger to their lives

To what extent do you agree or disagree on the following statements regarding the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation?

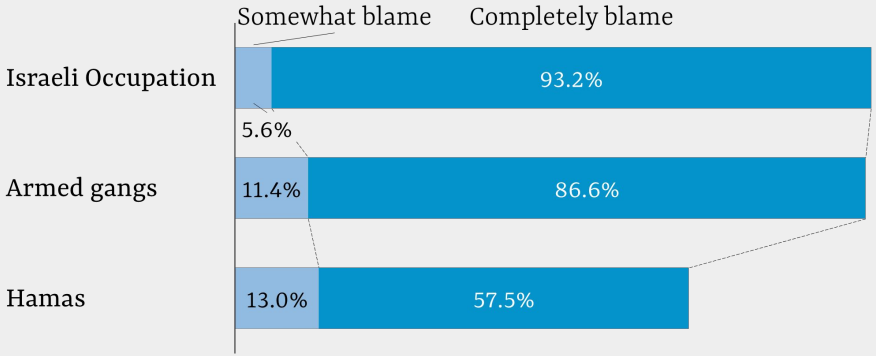


Aid diversion is a real problem according to most Gazans (85.3%), with principal blame placed on the Israeli occupation at (98.8%)

Is diverting food aid destinations or stealing food shipments a real problem?

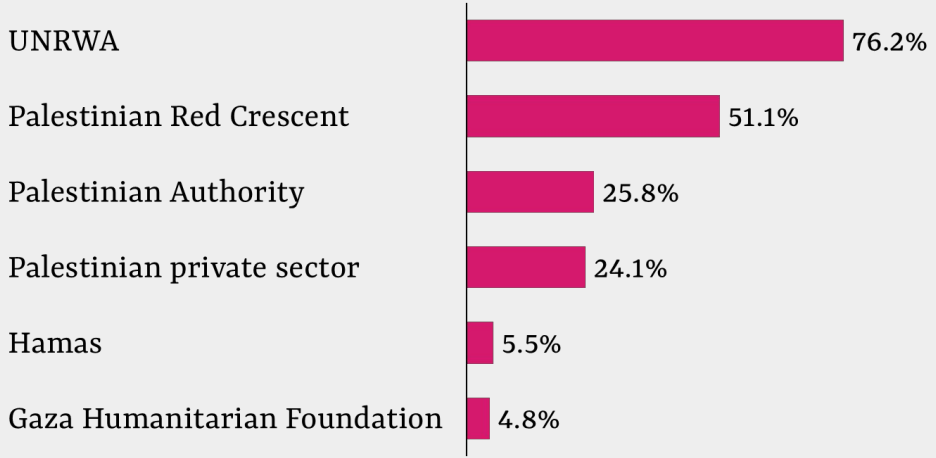


Who do you blame for stealing food aid?



...and UNRWA is the most preferred organization for postwar aid distribution, followed by the Palestinian Red Crescent

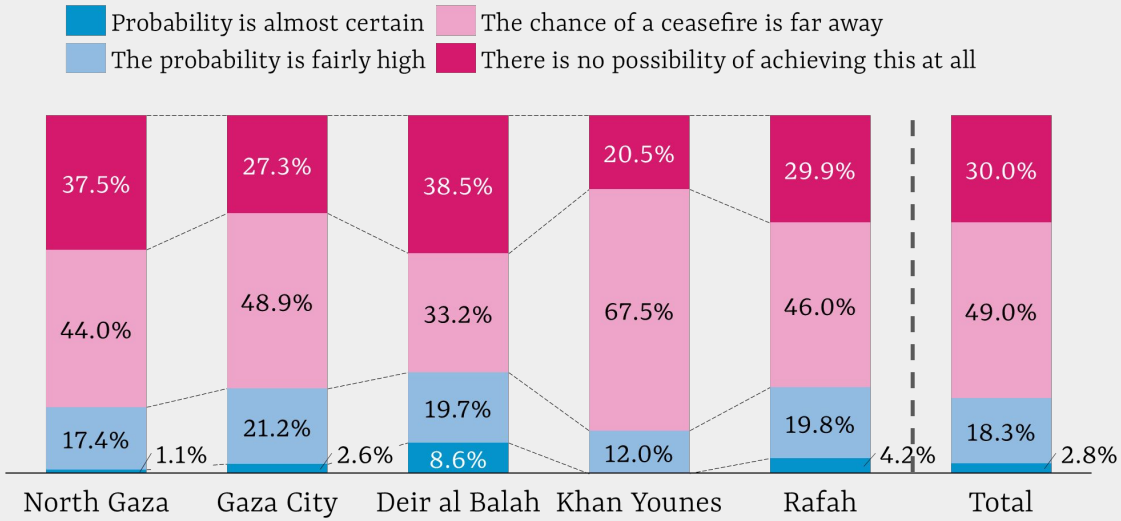
After the war stops, which party wants to assume responsibility for distributing humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip?



Ceasefire negotiations

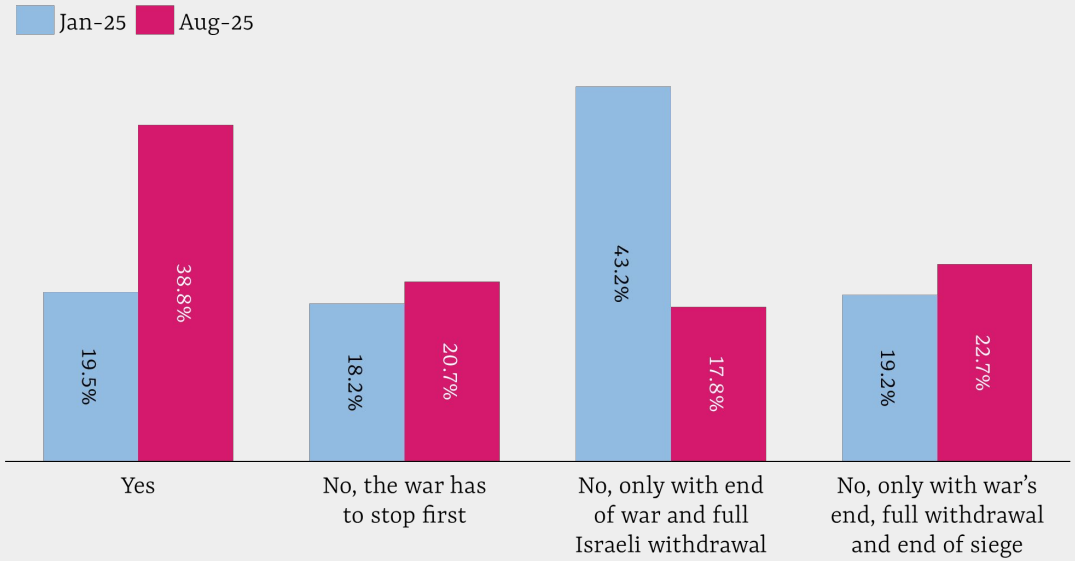
Half of respondents (49%) believe that chances of a permanent ceasefire are slim, and one in three believe that it's impossible

In your opinion, how likely are the current ceasefire negotiations to result in a permanent ceasefire agreement?



While more respondents in the Gaza Strip believe Hamas should accept a temporary truce, these are still a minority

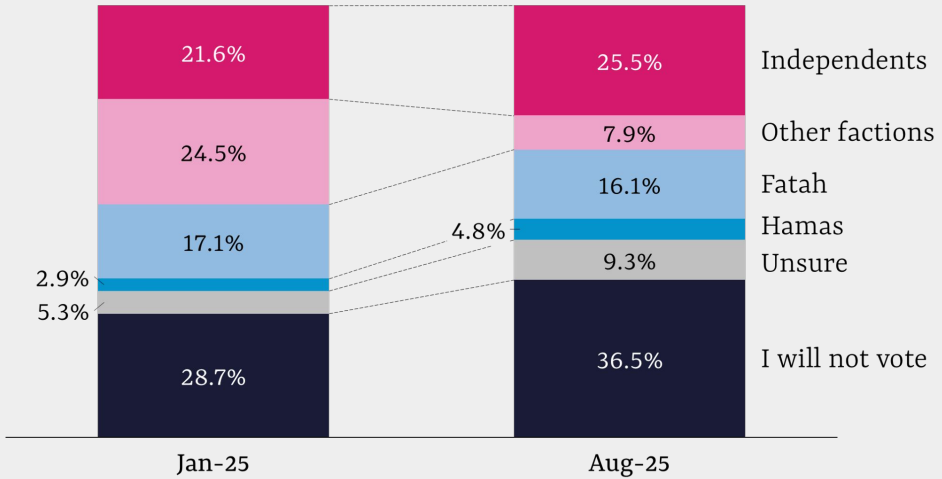
Regarding war negotiations, should Hamas accept a temporary truce?



Governance

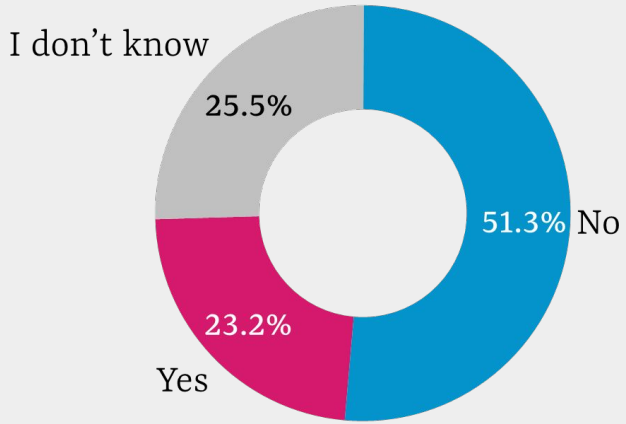
One in four (25.5%) would vote for independents; those that would refrain from voting have increased to more than a third (36.5%)

If elections were to be held in the coming months, who would you vote for?



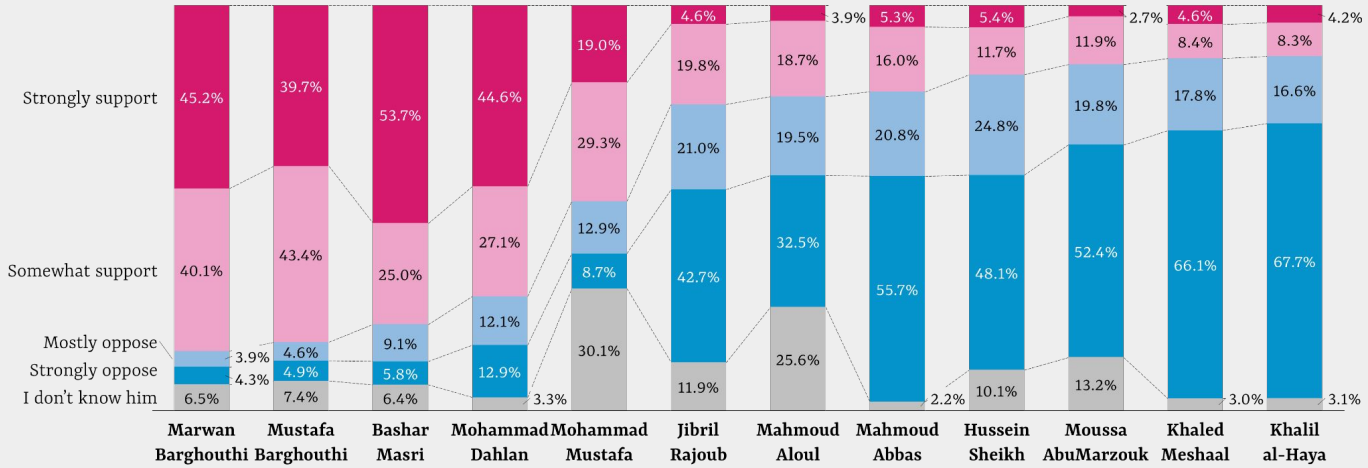
Half of respondents in the Gaza Strip (51.3%) do not believe Hamas has the ability to take control of the situation moving forward

In your opinion, does Hamas have the ability to control the situation from now on?



The leader with the highest support in Gaza is Marwan Barghouti (85%) followed by Mustafa Barghouti (83%) and Bashar Masri (79%)

How much do you oppose or support these leaders in a post-war referendum?



Conclusions

- The findings present a stark picture: widespread displacement, insecurity, and mistrust in existing aid mechanisms define life in Gaza.
- Gazans remain skeptical about political solutions and a ceasefire, and over half would consider leaving Gaza if given the chance.
- The population's rejection of Hamas as a governing force, combined with rising support for figures like Mustafa Barghouthi, Marwan Barghouthi, and Bashar Masri, signals a potential shift in Gaza's political landscape.
- Above all, the results underscore both the immediate urgency of humanitarian relief and the long-term need for inclusive reconstruction and governance.

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